Construction of new dams in Gujarat

†4093. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey for construction of new dams in Gujarat has been conducted by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESORUCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Government based on their priorities. The Central Government has not conducted any survey for construction of new dams in Gujarat.

(b) Does not arise.

Water crisis in States

†4094. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESORUCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many parts of the country water resoruces are getting dried and level of ground water is declining and on account of it the water crisis in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Rajasthan has worsened and it appears that one more desert is coming up;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to combat this situation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN-SOZ): (a) and (b) the ground water table in many parts of the country is depleting. As per the latest assessment carried out jointly by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), NABARD and the States, out of 5723 assessment units (Blocks/Mandals/Talukas) in the country, 839 units have been categorized as 'Over-exploited' *i.e.* the annual ground water extration exceeds the annual replenishable resource and significant decline in long

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

term ground water level trends has been observed either in pre-monsoon or post-monsoon or both. In addition, 226 units are 'Critical' *i.e.* the stage of ground water development is between 90% and 100% of annual replenishable resource and significant decline is observed in the long term water level trend in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon period and 550 units are semi-critical, where the stage of ground water development is between 70% and 100% and significant decline in long term water level trend has been recorded in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon period.

The stage of ground water development and situation of ground water resources in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Rajasthan is as follows:—

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total No. of Blocks/ Assessment Units	State of Ground Water Development	Over-exploited Units	Critical Units	Semi-critical Units
1.	Madhya Pradesh	312	48%	24	5	19
2.	Orissa	314	18%	—	—	—
3.	Chhattisgarh	146	20%	—	—	8
4.	Jharkhand	208	21%	—	—	—
5.	Bihar	515	39%	—	—	—
6.	Rajasthan	237	125%	140	50	14

(c) "Water" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take action for conservation of under-ground water. However, the Union Government has initiated following steps to remedy the situation of depleting ground water level in the country:—

(i) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has notified 20 severely critical areas in the country on consideration of over-exploitation of ground water resources and 32 over-exploited areas for registration of ground water structures. In these notified areas, no new ground water development programme is permitted without prior approval of the CGWA.

(ii) CGWA is regulating withdrawal of ground water by industries/ projects in over exploited, critical and semi-critical areas. List of these critical areas has been circulated to the State Pollution Control Boards and the Ministry of Environment & Forests which refer the new industries/projects to CGWA for obtaining permission.

(iii) A Model Bill was circulated in the year 1970 which was re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. A revised Model Bill, 2005 to regulate and control the development and management of ground water has been again circulated to all the States/Union Territories.

(iv) Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water have been circulated to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

(v) To popularize the concept of artificial recharge among all stakeholders and its adoption, the Ministry of Water Resources have constituted 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council'.

(vi) During the IX Plan, CGWB have implemented successfully artificial recharge projects under the Central Sector Scheme for "Study of Recharge to Ground Water" in 27 States/UTs in the country.

(vii) The CGWB has also prepared a report entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water", which envisages recharge of 36453 Million Cubic Meter volume of surplus monsoon runoff, through construction of 39.25 lakhs artificial recharge and roof top rain water harvesting structures.

(viii) All the States/Union Territories have been requested for advising the local bodies in their respective States/Union Territories to allow rebate in property tax to persons, who adopt roof top rainwater harvesting in their premises.

(ix) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to State Governments agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs, Resident Welfare Associations and individuals etc.

(x) Mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water have been organised.

(xi) Rain Water Harvesting campaign has been launched keeping in view the various target groups like youth and children, women, farmers and villagers, policy and opinion makers. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have been undertaken for the purpose.

(xii) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.

(xiii) The Ministry of Agriculture has implemented the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), whose impact evaluations have shown that watershed based interventions have led to increase in ground water recharge. Soil and water conservation works are also included under various activities of area development programmes, being undertaken by the Department of Land Resources, under the Ministry of Rural Development.

People displaced due to dam on river Godavari

4095. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any details on the number of people who will be displaced by proposed irrigation projects on river Godavari;